

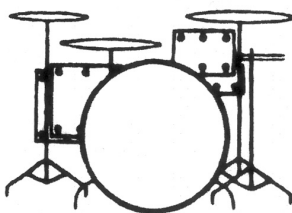


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LETTERS

city leaders to make this possible. Let us all join her in that request.

Margaret Buerk
Eugene

HOMELESS KIDS PROGRAM

Unless I missed it, your Dec. 24 "Give Guide" neglected to mention the First Place Family Center's pre-school program for homeless kids which is slated to close unless funds (\$20,000) are raised. Certainly this oversight was unintentional?

Karl Stout
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Give Guide is by no means a comprehensive list of organizations deserving of donations. EW published a news story on the First Place Kids Early Childhood Program on Dec. 17, and since First Place Kids is under the umbrella of St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, we chose to mention the larger nonprofit and in doing so gave limited print space to other nonprofits that had not recently received attention. Donate to First Place Kids at firstplacekids.org.

BRING BACK STREETCARS

The streetcar has rejuvenated downtown Portland and connects the southwest neighborhood with the northwest neighborhood and now goes over the Steel Bridge to the Lloyd Center. The original streetcar was built by Skoda in the Czech Republic in 2002 and is still running without a problem.

A similar streetcar runs in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Little Rock, Arkansas. Why doesn't Eugene have a streetcar on either Franklin or Willamette? Have you wrongly convinced yourselves you are too small?

Downtown Eugene needs revitalization, since people shop where there's parking at the Valley River Shopping Center. Eugene hasn't fallen for the bigger-and-faster myth. The streetcar is even quieter than the remarkable Sky Train in Vancouver, B.C.

Why isn't there a streetcar in iconoclast Eugene? Is it because Eugene people haven't been to their sister city Portland?

Marc Batko
Portland

HOME CARE REGULATIONS

For the past 19 years I have been my partner's caregiver; I doubt I will make 20. While Obamacare has brought many additional opportunities for health care, it has also brought lots of rules and regulations.

Home-bound individuals have lots of opportunities for visits by nurses, therapists and social workers to deal with specific issues. But while they're in your home these people also check for violations of the many regulations.

One nurse actually said to me, "You don't want the state coming in and seeing these supplements." I'm not sure whether she was referring to the number of supplements or the fact that a couple of them had expired. (We had stopped taking the expired ones.) In any case, she made it sound almost criminal.

Stuff like this makes me think long and hard about retiring.

John Kiely
Eugene

NO MORE POLITICS

Take away the money, breakdown the inner wall, plant the seeds of change and

harvest it in the fall. Walk away from the monetary system we live in. We all pay taxes but what is the corporate personhood given?

We all know the corruption at hand, but when the brave step up, will you stand? We need radical action, not what the system has planned.

No more time for peaceful protest. It's time to demand: no more politics, no more "solutions." This isn't about money, it's about pollution; it isn't about who's right, it's about a resolution. No more: It's time for revolution.

Phalen Petersen
Springfield

HOW TO CHECK A GUN

I was dismayed to hear about the 2-year-old girl shot in the face Christmas day by an adult "cleaning a gun."

It is impossible to clean the bore of a gun while it is loaded. Virtually all accidental (or rather negligent) such shootings are the result of an idiot behind the gun, pointing the gun and pulling the trigger. It is really as simple as that. In most cases it is because the idiot assumes the gun is not loaded and "dry fires" it.

For those who wish to check a gun in this manner, please first point the gun at your own head and pull the trigger.

Daniel Schlender
Springfield

ONE IN A MILLION

It's quite impressive that the Paris agreement on global warming was agreed to *unanimously* by the nations of the world. Kind of a mind-blowing accomplishment, actually. But, so far, there's no evidence one way or the other that this agreement will translate into actions that will prevent more global warming.

While we're waiting to see how things turn out, there's every reason to immediately start reducing our own personal contributions to global warming. You might feel that there's nothing significant one person can do to impact global warming, but I would say there's nothing so insignificant it's not worth doing.

Consider a 12-ounce to-go paper coffee cup. The reality is that how you dispose of that one cup will have an infinitesimally small effect on the world. Why bother?

But I think of that one paper cup differently. I don't think of it as one paper cup getting recycled, because it's not just me recycling paper cups. It's me and a million other like-minded people recycling one paper cup. That's a million paper cups. That's getting somewhere.

If you drive one less mile a week and are joined by a million others, that's a million miles less driving. It's worth doing. Be a one-in-a-million kind of guy or gal.

Jack Van Dusen
Eugene